

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 determining if a user has access to a data source; and
3 in response to the user being denied access to the data source, identifying one
4 or more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 maintaining a datastore that defines the authorizations possessed by one or
3 more users.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein access to the data source is granted if a user processes
2 a specific authorization.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein determining if a user has access includes:
2 accessing a datastore record to obtain a list of authorizations possessed by the
3 user.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein determining if a user has access further includes:
2 comparing the list of authorizations possessed by the user to the specific
3 authorization required to access the data source;
4 wherein the user is denied access to the data source if the list of authorizations
5 possessed by the user does not include the specific authorization required to access
6 the data source.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 maintaining a datastore that defines a plurality of data source packages,
3 wherein each data source package includes one or more authorizations for data
4 sources.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:
2 determining which of a plurality of data source packages includes a specific
3 authorization required to access the data source, thus generating a list of upgrade
4 packages.

- 1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the list of upgrade packages includes one or more
2 discrete data source packages.
- 1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the list of upgrade packages includes one or more
2 premium data source packages.
- 1 10. The method of claim 7 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:
2 determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:
2 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on the upgrade cost associated with
3 each of the upgrade packages.
- 1 12. The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:
2 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on a profit margin associated with
3 each of the upgrade packages.
- 1 13. The method of claim 10 wherein identifying one or more upgrade packages includes:
2 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on an predetermined marketing
3 preference.
- 1 14. The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade
2 packages includes:
3 determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package; and
4 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of
5 authorizations possessed by the user.
- 1 15. The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade
2 packages includes:
3 determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package; and
4 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a promotional discount.

1 16. The method of claim 10 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade
2 packages includes determining which of the upgrade packages requires one or more
3 prerequisite data source packages.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade
2 packages includes:

3 determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package that requires one or
4 more prerequisite data source packages;

5 increasing the undiscounted cost based on a cost associated with the one or
6 more prerequisite data source packages; and

7 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of
8 authorizations possessed by the user.

1 18. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a
2 plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that
3 processor to:

4 determine if a user has access to a data source; and

5 in response to the user being denied access to the data source, identify one or
6 more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising instructions for:
2 maintaining a datastore that defines the authorizations possessed by one or
3 more users.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein access to the data source is.
2 granted if a user processes a specific authorization.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the instructions for determining
2 if a user has access include instructions for:
3 accessing a datastore record to obtain a list of authorizations possessed by the
4 user.

- 1 22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the instructions for determining
2 if a user has access further include instructions for:
3 comparing the list of authorizations possessed by the user to the specific
4 authorization required to access the data source;
5 wherein the user is denied access to the data source if the list of authorizations
6 possessed by the user does not include the specific authorization required to access
7 the data source.
- 1 23. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising instructions for:
2 maintaining a datastore that defines a plurality of data source packages,
3 wherein each data source package includes one or more authorizations for data
4 sources.
- 1 24. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the instructions for identifying
2 one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining which of a plurality of data source packages includes a specific
4 authorization required to access the data source, thus generating a list of upgrade
5 packages.
- 1 25. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the list of upgrade packages
2 includes one or more discrete data source packages.
- 1 26. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the list of upgrade packages
2 includes one or more premium data source packages.
- 1 27. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein the instructions for identifying
2 one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages.
- 1 28. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying
2 one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on the upgrade cost associated with
4 each of the upgrade package.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying
2 one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on a profit margin associated with
4 each of the upgrades.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for identifying
2 one or more upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 sorting the list of upgrade packages based on an predetermined marketing
4 preference.

1 31. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining
2 an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining an undiscounted cost for a upgrade package; and
4 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of
5 authorizations possessed by the user.

1 32. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining
2 an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining an undiscounted cost for a upgrade package; and
4 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a promotional discount.

1 33. The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for determining
2 an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining which of the upgrade packages requires one or more prerequisite
4 data source packages.

1 34. The computer program product of claim 33 wherein the instructions for determining
2 an upgrade cost for each of the upgrade packages include instructions for:
3 determining an undiscounted cost for an upgrade package that requires one or
4 more prerequisite data source packages;
5 increasing the undiscounted cost based on a cost associated with the one or
6 more prerequisite data source packages; and

7 discounting the undiscounted cost based on a value associated with a list of
8 authorizations possessed by the user.

1 35. A method comprising:
2 determining if a user has access to a data source; and
3 in response to the user not having access to the data source, identifying one or
4 more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.

1 36. A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having a
2 plurality of instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that
3 processor to:
4 determine if a user has access to a data source; and
5 in response to the user not having access to the data source, identify one or
6 more upgrade packages that would allow the user to access the data source.